

Republicans voted no on an amendment to remove lead pipes from schools.

Republicans voted no on an amendment to ensure kids had access to healthy meals.

Republicans voted no on an amendment to help keep firearms out of schools.

Republicans voted no on an amendment to prevent schools from monitoring students' menstrual cycles.

Republicans also voted no on an amendment to prevent the censorship of the teaching of the Holocaust.

This extreme bill is going to do horrible things to students' privacy, and it is going to increase books that are banned at schools.

In addition to doing stupid stuff and trying to pass extreme bills, Republicans have now gone on a rampage about what the Manhattan district attorney is doing without even knowing what the purported charges are or what the grand jury evidence is.

What if the evidence is overwhelming? What if it is rock solid that an American by the name of Donald Trump committed crimes? How do Republicans know? They don't.

Do you know what else they cannot explain? When Trump's former attorney, Michael Cohen, was arrested, indicted, convicted, and went to prison for participating in an illegal hush money payment scheme to Stormy Daniels, not a single Republican leader complaining now said a thing about what happened to Michael Cohen.

They cannot explain why they are holding Donald Trump to a different standard. Michael Cohen served prison time for participating in an illegal hush money payment scheme to Stormy Daniels.

In America, we should apply the same standard to all Americans. No one is above the law—not the former President's enablers, not the former President's attorneys, and not the former President himself.

Let's let law enforcement do their work. Let's let the judicial process do its work. Let's wait to see if there are going to be any charges, what those charges may be, and what the evidence is.

A jury or judge will get to hear this evidence, and the American people will see it. The prosecution will have to show beyond a reasonable doubt what their evidence is.

Let me conclude with this: Every American, including Donald Trump, is entitled to the presumption of innocence in a court of law, and that presumption will also be applied.

Let's apply the law equally, the way our Founders wanted it to be done.

SUPPORTING THE BERING RIVER COALFIELD ACQUISITION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the commitment of the United States Forest Service to see through the protection of the Bering River coalfield in Alaska.

According to the Forest Service, the Copper River watershed, in which the Bering River lies, is one of the largest and most biologically intact places on Earth.

Mineral rights to the Bering River coalfield are currently owned by a Korean company, which means almost 12,000 acres of coalfields in the Copper River watershed remain vulnerable to mining.

Coal from the Bering River has no value in the U.S. coal market. We have plenty in the lower 48. An extraction would only serve to benefit the Asian markets at the cost of decimating one of the few untouched places left in America. The current owner of the mineral rights expressed that they are willing to sell the rights, and the bid for appraisal opened last week.

It is my hope that we are approaching the finish line of the conservation of the Bering River, an effort that has been ongoing for 100 years. Forty-six conservation organizations have voiced their support for the protection of this invaluable natural resource.

If a purchase of the Bering River coalfield is successful, all future generations of American sportsmen and -women and outdoor recreationists can experience the magnificent wild country the way it emerged from our creator.

I will take a brief moment to thank the late Representative Don Young from Alaska for his help and support of this issue to get it to this point.

I also thank the Exxon Valdez trust for extending a boundary so that money could be leveraged to help set aside for future generations this important national asset.

IGNITING CULTURE WARS AT THE EXPENSE OF TRANS LIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. ROBERT GARCIA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in both sadness and anger.

I know how painful life can be as an openly gay person. Like so many in our community, I have also experienced harassment because of who I am, but these challenges pale in comparison to the onslaught of attacks against the trans community in this country today.

House Republicans attack trans people as threats to kids, religious liberty, and our local schools, but that just isn't true. The true threats are the discriminatory proposals against trans Americans that are being made in chambers and statehouses across the country.

Sports bans, bathroom bills, and healthcare restrictions demonize and

dehumanize trans people. With higher rates of depression, anxiety, and suicide, these bills literally mean the difference between life and death for so many in this community, but many in this Chamber don't seem to care.

It is part of a plan to ignite culture wars at the expense of trans lives. As an immigrant embraced by this country, I believe that being a true patriot means advocating for all of our people across the country. That is why I will do everything in my power to ensure and safeguard the rights of all Americans, and that includes our transgender community.

The trans community has been at the front lines of the struggle for justice and equality. Please know that we will be there right beside you, fighting against these cruel and un-American attacks.

Trans rights are human rights. We will continue to fight until we win.

RECOGNIZING CAL STATE LONG BEACH'S 50TH ANNUAL POWWOW

Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Cal State Long Beach's 50th annual powwow. Specifically, I recognize the First Nations and first stewards of the land where this event is held every single year.

The Cal State Long Beach powwow is the longest running and largest social celebration west of the Mississippi River honoring Native and indigenous peoples.

I had the pleasure of attending this event just recently and was incredibly impressed by the skill and love shared with this community event. This year's celebration was especially important. It was the first time it was held since the pandemic.

Established by American Indian students in 1969, the powwow includes Native dancers from across the State, the Pacific Northwest, and even parts of Canada.

Events like this are important to highlight our Native American culture and presence within our country. It also serves to educate and develop the next generation of Native American leaders while bringing Tribes together to highlight art and unity.

In commemoration of the 50 years of the powwow, we congratulate and thank Cal State Long Beach.

HONORING INFLUENTIAL ARTIST DAVE VAN PATTEN

Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support art in all its mediums. From paint to dance to music to story writing, our lives are enriched with the appreciation of the arts.

Today, I rise to recognize someone who has been an amazing and influential artist in the city of Long Beach, and that is Dave Van Patten.

Just last month, Dave topped his tremendous career by winning a Grammy for his work as artistic director of the box set album of Grateful Dead concerts titled: "In and Out of the Garden."